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The 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

Summary report by the secretariat

Summary

The 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment was held during the forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, on 8 and 9 May 2018. Representatives of Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, media and other relevant stakeholders shared best practices and lessons learned regarding public awareness, public participation and public access to information in relation to climate change and international cooperation on those matters. Furthermore, the Dialogue included a discussion on gender mainstreaming in the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment.

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I. Introduction

A. Background and mandate

1. Reaffirming the importance of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information in relation to climate change and international cooperation on those matters for achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention and effectively implementing adaptation and mitigation actions, the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its eighteenth session, adopted the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention.[1]

2. In addition, the COP requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to enhance the work on Article 6 of the Convention by organizing an annual in-session dialogue with the participation of Parties, representatives of relevant bodies established under the Convention and relevant experts, practitioners and stakeholders to share their experience and exchange ideas, best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the Doha work programme.[2]

3. The COP decided that, for the purpose of organizing the Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment,[3] the six elements of Article 6 of the Convention would be clustered into two focal areas, with the consideration of the two areas alternating on an annual basis. The first focal area comprises education and training and the second comprises public awareness, public participation and public access to information. International cooperation is considered a cross-cutting theme of both focal areas.[4]

4. Moreover, COP 23 adopted a gender action plan,[5] which invites Parties to hold a dialogue under Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) on how Parties and observer organizations have promoted the systematic integration of gender-sensitive and participatory education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information from the national to the local level into all climate change mitigation and adaptation activities implemented under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including into the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the formulation of long-term, low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.[6] The 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment (hereinafter referred to as the Dialogue) included a focus on gender in response to this request to Parties.

5. The COP requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on every meeting of the dialogue referred to in paragraph 2 above.[7]

B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6. The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report with a view to determining appropriate action.

II. Proceedings

7. The Dialogue took place on 8 and 9 May 2018, during SBI 48. The focus was on the second focal area referred to in paragraph 3 above: public awareness, public participation,

[1] Decision 15/CP.18, preamble and paragraph 1.
[2] Decision 15/CP.18, paragraph 9.
[3] As part of the intermediate review of the Doha work programme, on a recommendation of SBI 44, COP 22 decided that efforts related to the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention shall be referred to as Action for Climate Empowerment (decision 17/CP.22, para. 14).
[4] Decision 15/CP.18, paragraph 10.
[5] Decision 3/CP.23.
[6] Decision 3/CP.23, table 1, activity A.2.
[7] Decision 15/CP.18, paragraph 12.

public access to information and international cooperation on those matters, as well as the systematic integration of gender considerations into ACE.

8. More than 100 representatives of Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), media and other relevant stakeholders attended the Dialogue and shared best practices and lessons learned regarding public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation on these matters, as well as gender mainstreaming in ACE implementation.

9. The Chair of the SBI, Mr. Emmanuel Dlamini, presided over the meeting. He was supported by the co-facilitators of the Dialogue, Mr. Paulo Jose Chiarelli, UNFCCC national focal point for Brazil, and Ms. Emma Letellier, UNFCCC national gender and climate change focal point for France.

10. The meeting was divided into two three-hour working sessions, focusing on the two focus areas:

(a) Public awareness and international cooperation thereon;

(b) Public participation, public access to information and international cooperation thereon.

11. Each working session started with a series of presentations, followed by working group discussions on key topics related to the two focus areas. The working groups were moderated by climate change and gender experts from various organizations.

12. The agenda for the meeting is contained in the annex. All presentations[8] and the on-demand webcast for 8 May[9] and 9 May[10] are available on the UNFCCC website. An article about the Dialogue is also available in the UNFCCC newsroom.[11]

III. Summary of presentations and discussions

A. Opening of the 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

13. The meeting was opened by the co-facilitators of the Dialogue, who welcomed participants.

14. Welcoming remarks were made by Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, who stressed that climate change is a critical issue for present and future generations. She highlighted that although the negotiations are country-driven, national governments alone cannot solve this issue, and therefore the participation of non-Party stakeholders is indispensable. She stressed that including different voices, perspectives and areas of interest from multiple stakeholders, such as young people, indigenous communities, the private sector and researchers, can accelerate climate action. She encouraged participants to work together to make the world greener and to spread the message of urgency to address climate change.

15. The COP 23 President and Prime Minister of Fiji, Mr. Frank Bainimarama, also delivered welcoming remarks. He stressed that dialoguing in the Talanoa spirit is an important step on the journey towards decisive action, and noted that telling and listening to stories can show how to facilitate action to meet the climate challenge more effectively. He explained that countries, subnational governments, regions, civil society, the private sector and ordinary men and women have the power to inspire and mobilize meaningful, decisive and sustainable action. He pointed out that Fiji has experienced back-to-back cyclones that

[8] Available at https://unfccc.int/event/6th-dialogue-on-action-for-climate-empowerment.

[9] Available at https://unfccc-sb48.cloud.streamworld.de/webcast/6th-dialogue-on-action-for-climate-empowerment-p-2.

[10] Available at https://unfccc-sb48.cloud.streamworld.de/webcast/6th-dialogue-on-action-for-climate-empowerment-p-3.

[11] See https://unfccc.int/news/public-information-engagement-welcome-point-of-agreement-at-climate-negotiations.

have claimed lives, left people homeless and destroyed infrastructure. He stated that those who have witnessed the effects of climate change need no convincing, while people who are somewhat removed from the issue still do, and he expressed pride in his country's efforts to organize the first ACE Youth Forum,[12] held in April of this year in Bonn, Germany, so as to engage the youth constituency and mobilize gender issues in the international climate process.

16. Mr. Dlamini stressed in his opening remarks that Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement are fundamental to enabling low-emission development and achieving climate resilience. ACE is about transforming values and behaviours and enhancing public participation in decision-making. He pointed out that the ACE dialogue provides a platform for exchanging experiences, good practices and problem-solving approaches. He also pointed out that the outputs of the Dialogue will contribute to the final review of the Doha work programme in 2020 and enhance the implementation of the gender action plan. He concluded by announcing that the SBI has recommended the first decision in the Paris Agreement work programme, on "ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information".[13]

B. Session I: public awareness and international cooperation thereon

1. Presentations

17. Presentations were made on good practices and lessons learned in public awareness and gender mainstreaming on ACE and international cooperation thereon. A representative of Climate Outreach,[14] a climate communication organization that connects social research with practice, presented lessons learned on raising awareness and communicating climate change. He said effective communication is critical for public engagement in climate action but noted communicating about climate change is a challenge because it is seen as a distant, complex scientific problem. He presented principles from the handbook on science communication[15] produced for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which include talking about the real world, not abstract ideas; connecting with what matters to the audience; telling a human story and using appropriate visual communication. In addition, he explained that messages should respond to the specific needs, values and contexts of each audience. The presenter outlined that social research shows that women who are highly affected by climate change feel less empowered than men to address it. Therefore, communication tailored to women, faith groups, young people and marginalized communities is a fundamental part of the solution. The presenter suggested monitoring and evaluating the impact of climate communication.

18. A representative of Diverse Voices and Action for Equality[16] (DIVA for Equality), a grass-roots, women-led organization, delivered a presentation on women-led approaches to social, economic, ecological and climate justice. DIVA for Equality uses intersectoral and interlinking approaches connecting climate change with other issues, such as food security, violence, disaster risk reduction and human rights, to engage marginalized women in climate action. She identified the following challenges faced by local communities in addressing climate change: lack of information, lack of participatory consultations when development projects are implemented, insufficient funding and lack of involvement of women in decision-making. She recommended investing in social movements, democratizing diverse knowledge and integrating gender perspective into climate action and processes. She stressed the importance of engaging marginalized and rural communities as part of climate solutions. She also highlighted the experience of hosting in 2018 a women-led Talanoa session in a remote community in Fiji, which included participation by people who may not otherwise have had an opportunity to share their stories and identify collective solutions.

[12] See https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/youth-engagement/ace-youth-forum.
[13] FCCC/SBI/2018/9/Add.1, pp.5–6.
[14] See https://climateoutreach.org/.
[15] Available at https://climateoutreach.org/resources/ipcc-communications-handbook.
[16] See http://www.divafiji.com/.

19. Representatives of youth non-governmental organizations (YOUNGOs), a constituency comprising more than 200 youth-led NGOs and over 3,000 individuals, presented on efforts led by young people in raising awareness and mobilizing climate action. Efforts led by YOUNGOs included co-organizing the first ACE Youth Forum. The event was an initiative of the COP 23 Presidency, and was funded by the Government of Canada with support from the United Nations Development Programme and the UNFCCC secretariat. The event brought together participants from more than 70 countries and resulted in youth recommendations for the ACE negotiations. The representatives drew attention to the importance of including ACE elements in the NDCs and the national adaptation plans, as well as engaging youth and other non-Party stakeholders in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

2. Working group discussions and conclusions

20. The participants were divided into four working groups:

(a) Working group one discussed reaching remote or marginalized people and communities when raising awareness on climate change;

(b) Working group two discussed raising awareness of the links between gender and climate change in local communities;

(c) Working group three discussed using technology (e.g. social media, Internet, radio) to expand the reach of information on climate change and its impacts and solutions, taking into account differences in access and use by men, women, boys and girls;

(d) Working group four discussed using international cooperation to raise public awareness and mobilize climate action.

21. Working group one pointed out the importance of using multiple approaches and methodologies that foster a bottom-up approach, dialogue, and two-way communication to facilitate reaching marginalized communities and to allow the communities to be heard by decision makers. The group stressed that public access to information is a human right. It recommended packaging information in accordance with local needs and circumstances and using existing communication media and forms, such as television novellas, comic books and shows, and engaging well-known ambassadors who can help spread the message through their fan bases. The group recommended empowering and supporting existing community groups and leaders to scale up their work and suggested this might be done by registering organizations, raising awareness with donors to help make funding available, fostering community participation in decision-making and creating spaces such as the Talanoa Dialogue where governments and non-Party stakeholders can engage in fruitful conversations and find climate solutions. It also shared the experience of obtaining input from local communities on the gender action plan.

22. Working group two stressed that men and women are affected differently by climate change because their roles in their communities are different, as are the channels through which they receive information. For example, in some rural communities, women do not listen to the radio, use text messages or read newspapers. Therefore, the group recommended developing gender-sensitive communication strategies with tailored messages, using local languages and disseminating information through context-appropriate channels and with correct timing to reach women. Peer-to-peer communication, women gatherings, local mediators and mentorship programmes were highlighted as effective means of engaging women in leading climate action. Energy, food security and water were cited as topics that could be covered in climate change messages to women.

23. The group pointed out that gender equality requires the active participation of men and women, and therefore individuals should be empowered to become gender champions in their communities. It stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender into climate action at all levels, including by raising the awareness of policymakers, ensuring respect for gender equality in climate policies and projects, organizing community training on gender and building the capacity of women and girls to implement climate action. Moreover, universities and other educational institutions were suggested as good partners for reaching communities and for mainstreaming gender issues by including gender in academic curricula.

24. Working group three identified challenges such as poor or no Internet access, the use of Internet and social media varying by age and region, and the 'filter bubble' effect of social media whereby people receive a narrow stream of information based on their previous searches and content preferences. It was stressed that to disseminate climate change information, each community should make the best use of the technology available, including local channels of communication, radio, phones and local meetings. The group suggested using inclusive language to engage women in climate action; tailored messages for men and women; climate information transmitted in an understandable way and in local languages; and climate messages focused on solutions that align with local circumstances, needs and culture. The group noted that online forums, podcasts, innovative software applications, YouTube videos and interactive games can also be used. The group suggested establishing partnerships with local media, schools, bloggers, influencers, companies and weather forecasters to provide information on climate change to more people.

25. Working group four highlighted that international cooperation can foster exchanges of good practices and lessons learned among governments, organizations and communities. International cooperation can also enhance multi-stakeholder dialogues and bilateral collaboration among countries and can empower women, indigenous peoples and others by allowing them to share their experiences. In addition, international cooperation can strengthen existing groups working on climate change, such as networks of universities, schools and NGOs. The group suggested connecting ACE focal points with local youth and NGOs to reach sectors of the public that are still not engaged in climate action. Additionally, the group acknowledged the challenge of creating ownership of the issue, sustainability of action and capacity for international cooperation, which could be addressed through an appropriate alignment of national policies. Such alignment would also help to ensure continuity. The group suggested implementing a combination of virtual and physical meetings to engage youth in climate action, as well as making funding available to support youth participation in climate meetings.

C. Session II: public participation, public access to information and international cooperation thereon

1. Outline and objectives of session II

26. The meeting was opened by the co-facilitators of the Dialogue, who outlined the objectives of the session: the sharing and exchange of experiences, ideas, best practices and lessons learned regarding public participation, public access to information, international cooperation, and gender mainstreaming in the implementation of ACE.

2. Keynote speaker

27. The session started with a keynote speech by Ms. Mary Robinson, former President of the Republic of Ireland and Chair of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice. She stressed the importance of fostering gender equality and public participation in the decision-making process and climate action. She emphasized that climate policy needs more input from the people experiencing climate change first-hand, including local communities, indigenous people and women. She said ensuring gender balance and ensuring that women are represented in decision-making can lead to more robust and impactful decisions. She explained that the participation of women and the integration of their knowledge and expertise in the implementation of NDCs should be a priority in all countries.

28. She recalled the preamble of the Paris Agreement which states that "Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights". She highlighted the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach to national-level activities, which can strengthen procedural rights and increase the effectiveness of climate decision-making. For that she suggested appointing a human rights focal point at the UNFCCC secretariat, developing guidelines on integrating human rights into climate action, urging Parties and NGOs and other observers to include representatives of local communities in their delegations to climate conferences and fostering their participation in dialogues and workshops.

3. Presentations

29. A series of presentations was made on good practices and lessons learned in fostering public participation and access to information. A representative of the United Nations Human Rights Council presented on the interlinkages between human rights and climate change. He recalled Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, which states that "Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information". He stressed that public participation and access to information are human rights recognized in multiple international instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In the context of environmental issues, the right to participate and access information is reinforced by Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environmem and Development,[17] the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)[18] and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazu Agreement).[19] He stressed that education is a human right, and highlighted that the local communities and indigenous peoples platform, the gender action plan and ACE are entry points that integrate human rights into the climate agenda. He noted the need to promote gender equality in the climate negotiation processes. He said governments have legally binding obligations in relation to human rights and noted it is important that the guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to be adopted at COP 24, promote participatory, inclusive and informed participation, especially in the framework of NDCs, adaptation, the transparency framework and the global stocktake.

30. A representative of the German Development Institute[20] presented a web tool[21] to connect climate action to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The tool analyses and compares how climate actions formulated in the NDCs correspond to each of the 17 SDGs. She pointed out that the NDCs include many climate activities that are relevant for simultaneously achieving multiple SDGs. For example, she noted climate activities can be attributed not only to SDG 13, related to climate action, but also to SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 15 on life on land and biodiversity, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SGD 17 on partnerships. She explained that the web tool enhances access to information, promotes transparency and fosters partnership among countries. She also explained that the tool reinforces the importance of policy coherence, as well as the need for meaningful and complementary responses between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

31. A representative of the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation[22] presented good practices to foster women's access to information and communication technologies. She stated that one of the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union (EU) in the first part of 2018 was to empower women to be part of the digital economy. She highlighted that the information and communication technologies sector is the best performing sector in Bulgaria and employs around 20,000 people, 30 per cent of them women professionals, which is almost double the EU average for female representation.

32. She also shared information about SAME World (Sustainability Awareness Motivation Environment),[23] which is a project that includes 10 EU countries – Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain – and has partnerships with Kenya, Mozambique, Myanmar and the United Republic of Tanzania. She explained that the project aims to raise public awareness through education about climate change, environmental migration and environmental justice. The project resulted in an online platform and an educational kit that has been translated into 12 languages. In Bulgaria, the

[17] See http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1.

[18] See http://www.unece.org/env/pp/treatytext.html.

[19] See https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement.

[20] See https://www.die-gdi.de/en.

[21] Available at https://klimalog.die-gdi.de/ndc-sdg.

[22] See https://www.esct-net.org/member/bulgarian-gender-research-foundation.

[23] http://www.sameworld.eu/en.

project has benefited more than 20,000 people, including local authorities, teachers, students, social organizations and media.

33. A representative of the secretariat mentioned the slogan "nothing about us without us". He said it represents a powerful concept used in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and noted it should be applied in the climate change process as well. He pointed out that action under the Paris Agreement now lies with countries. He explained that to raise ambition, it is crucial to promote the participation of all those who feel committed and can act to address the climate challenge. He said that public participation is crucial at the national and international level and that therefore it is important to communicate on climate change without acronyms and in simple, understandable language.

4. Working group discussions and conclusions

34. Participants were divided into four working groups:

(a) Working group one discussed ways to encourage women, men, girls and boys from all walks of life to get involved and participate in local and national climate policy development and action;

(b) Working group two discussed different ways that information can be provided to ensure that women, men, girls and boys who may have difficulties due to illiteracy, disability, physical access barriers or language are able to receive and understand information on climate change;

(c) Working group three discussed a 'rights-based approach' to strengthen work on public participation and access to information on climate change at the local and national level;

(d) Working group four discussed international and regional cooperation to foster public access to information and public participation.

35. Working group one made population-specific suggestions. For children, it suggested that the wording and structure of climate change policy needs to be translated into easy-to-understand language with pictures and needs to use local dialect and context. The group indicated schools can play an important role in promoting the participation of students through climate change clubs and organizing student exchanges, competitions and extracurricular activities. The group mentioned young people need to feel a sense of ownership of climate change issues so as to be encouraged to look at what they can do in their lives and to find their own solutions. The group noted the importance of connecting climate change with issues relevant to young people, such as green and climate-friendly jobs and entrepreneurship.

36. The group stressed that to bring women's perspectives into environmental issues, women must be represented in the decision-making process, women need to be encouraged to document and tell their stories and training on gender issues should be available. The group explained civil society organizations could encourage public participation in climate policy and action by acting as a connection to the government, acting as facilitators and integrating climate change into existing initiatives that people already care about. It highlighted the importance of fostering the participation of women, indigenous peoples and youth and of engaging the private sector, community organizations, older people and the most vulnerable and poorest populations. It also stressed that organizing national climate dialogues could bring together government and non-Party stakeholders to discuss climate change policies.

37. Working group two stressed that access to information does not necessarily translate into meaningful participation. The group noted the difficulty of operationalizing access to information and public participation, both of which, it indicated, are rights. The group maintained that support and capacity are needed, along with identifying how to best influence the hardest to reach populations. Ways to create accessible information were discussed, including using culturally appropriate content and language; capitalizing on how information is already spread in a region; creating software applications for teens; and leveraging well-informed, trusted messengers, such as musicians and other artists. It was pointed out that children require interactive, face-to-face education and not just videos, and that consideration of spaces and timing to ensuring accessibility by women is important.

38. The theme of barriers to access emerged in the group's discussion. It noted that although respecting the right to isolation is important, reaching marginalized people is also important. The group identified illiteracy and disability as two categories of marginalization that are often overlooked, and explained that visual and audio impairments need to be considered in developing websites and written information about climate change.

39. The group also mentioned mental and attitudinal access barriers, including the fact that some teachers do not want to teach about climate change. The group maintained that climate science needs to be easily accessible and understood through creatively crafted messages based on findings in social science. The group suggested technology should be designed and deployed appropriately for the intended audiences, with consideration also given to how women receive and perceive the presented information and data. The group presented two complementary approaches: the bottom-up approach of empowering messengers, such as teachers, religious and cultural leaders, artists, actors and musicians, to share information and messages with their communities, and the top-down approach of integrating public participation and access to information into the rules for implementing the Paris Agreement to ensure or enable emphasis on public participation. The group indicated that support, including funding and capacity, are needed to identify how to best reach populations and to put that knowledge into practice.

40. Working group three identified the following challenges: lack of awareness of human rights-based approaches to climate change policy development and implementation; lack of knowledge among communities about their rights to participate; lack of involvement of women, indigenous peoples and local communities in consultations on projects and in decision-making; inadequate mechanisms for distributing information; lack of information in local languages; and insufficient funding.

41. The group recommended the following:

(a) Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples, women, farmers, local communities, the elderly and young people in adaptation and mitigation projects and decision-making;

(b) Fostering capacity-building for policymakers, local leaders and communities in relation to the understanding and implementation of a human rights-based approach;

(c) Developing guidelines to support governments in integrating a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(d) Respecting traditional knowledge;

(e) Promoting dialogues between governments and stakeholders, for example in forums and round tables that provide an opportunity for local communities to express their views regarding climate policies and projects mobilizing funding, to foster public participation and access to information on climate change.

42. Working group four highlighted that international cooperation can strengthen and scale up action in various areas, such as enhancing the exchange of good practices and lessons learned among countries and non-Party stakeholders in intergovernmental processes related to public access to information and public participation. The group cited the Aarhus Convention, the Escazu Agreement and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[24] The group explained that in the framework of international conferences related to sustainable development, international cooperation can foster multi-stakeholder participation through consultations, side-events and parallel events. The group recalled that the Conference of Youth organized prior to COP 23 was a good example. The group noted that international cooperation policies offer additional opportunities to promote public participation and access to information through domestic consultations with civil society on the priorities and governance of official development assistance in donor countries, multi-stakeholder events to discuss official development assistance and international support, and the inclusion of guidelines or criteria related to local stakeholder consultations in any project implemented through international cooperation.

[24] See http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/.

43. The group mentioned that lessons could also be learned from the private sector, especially on good practices and mechanisms used for community engagement and public consultations and in projects implemented by corporations. The group indicated that international norms can promote the transparency of private-sector actions, and that international cooperation has a key role in identifying the good practices, lessons learned and criteria that can serve as benchmarks for meaningful participation, including good practices in relation to national adaptation programmes of action and NDC preparation and implementation. The group recommended fostering communication and coordination among the ACE and gender focal points to promote gender mainstreaming, public participation and access to information at the national level.

D. Closure of the 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

44. The Deputy Executive Secretary of UNFCCC closed the Dialogue by stressing the importance of ACE and of the engagement of young people in the climate change architecture. He noted that the draft ACE decision agreed at SBI 48 is the first item of the Paris Agreement work programme agreed by Parties. He said that the Paris Agreement calls all to action. He encouraged participants to return to their engagements and help with meaningful action to implement the Agreement at all levels. He stressed that communicating and bringing information to the common person in countries, regions and communities around the world is extremely important. He explained it is about not only sharing information but also making it more meaningful. He invited participants to read the UNFCCC annual report,[7] which presents information on the state of climate change negotiations and on various climate change topics in a simplified, straightforward way.

45. In his closing remarks, the SBI Chair thanked the co-facilitators for their excellent work. He pointed out that the Dialogue had provided an opportunity to discuss Article 6 of the Convention and its elements, the role of ACE in the climate change process and especially the ways participants can integrate ACE into their own work and that of their governments and communities. He reiterated that having a good understanding of the role of ACE is important for the process, and he ended by inviting the participants to participate in the 7th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment, which will take place in 2019 in Bonn.

46. The Dialogue was closed by Ms. Letellier, who thanked all presenters, speakers and participants for their active participation in and valuable contributions to the discussion. She highlighted the importance of building on the experiences and lessons learned on Article 6 of the Convention to scale up the implementation under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. She concluded by stressing that the discussions in the Dialogue are also a contribution to the implementation of the gender action plan.

IV. Next steps

47. Parties and other stakeholders may wish to use the information contained in this report when planning, designing and implementing education and training activities in relation to climate change and international cooperation on those matters.

[7] Available at https://unfccc.int/resource/annualreport/.

Annex

Agenda for the 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

[English only]

Opening of the 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment **Session I: public awareness and international cooperation thereon** Tuesday, 8 May 2018, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Bonn, Germany World Conference Centre Bonn, room Santiago de Chile	
4 p.m. to 4.40 p.m.	Opening of the 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment Welcoming remarks ▪ Ms. Patricia Espinosa, UNFCCC Executive Secretary ▪ Mr. Frank Bainimarama, COP 23 President and Prime Minister of Fiji ▪ Mr. Emmanuel Dlamini, Chair of SBI Group photo Outline and objectives by co-facilitators ▪ Mr. Paulo Jose Chiarelli, UNFCCC National Focal Point for Brazil and Ms. Emma Letellier, UNFCCC Gender Focal Point for France
Presentation of good practices and lessons learned on public awareness and international cooperation on this matter	
4.40 p.m. to 5 p.m.	**"Lessons learned on raising awareness and communication climate change"** ▪ **Jamie Clarke, Climate Outreach.** **"Feminist women-led approaches to social, Economic and climate justice"** ▪ **Ms. Maria Nailevu – DIVA for Equality PPGCCSD, PICAN, WGC, WMG.** ▪ "Efforts lead by young people in raising awareness and mobilizing climate action" YOUNGO Question and answer session
Methodology	
5 p.m. to 5.05 p.m.	Explanation on the methodology of the working groups by the co-facilitators
Working groups	
5.05 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.	Working groups' discussions on key topics
Conclusions of the working groups	
6.30 p.m. to 6.55 p.m.	Presentation of the working groups' conclusions and moderated dialogue among participants
Closing remarks	
6.55 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Closing remarks Session I: Public awareness and international cooperation on this matter

	• Mr. Paulo Jose Chiarelli, UNFCCC National Focal Point for Brazil and Ms. Emma Letellier, UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point for France
Day II: Public participation, public access to information and international cooperation on these matters **Wednesday**, 9 May 2018 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Room: Santiago de Chile	
4 p.m. to 4.05 p.m.	Outline and objectives of session II by co-facilitators • Mr. Paulo Jose Chiarelli, UNFCCC National Focal Point for Brazil and Ms. Emma Letellier, UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point for France
Keynote speaker	
4.05 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.	Ms. Mary Robinson, former President of the Republic of Ireland and Chair of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice
Presentation on good practices and lessons learned in fostering public participation and access to information	
4.15 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Presentations • "Respecting and promoting human rights in the implementation of the Paris Agreement" Mr. Benjamin Schachter, United Nations Human Rights Council • "Enhancing access to information through web tools on NDCs and SDGs" Ms. Hannah Janetschek, German Development Institute • "Access of women to information and communication technologies for their empowerment and the achievement of SDGs – Examples of good practices from Bulgaria" Ms. Elena Triffonova, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation Questions and answers
Working groups	
5 p.m. to 6.20 p.m.	Working groups' discussions on key topics
Conclusions of the working groups	
6.20 p.m. to 6.50 p.m.	Presentation of the working groups' conclusions and moderated dialogue among participants
Closure of the 6th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment	
6.50 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Closing remarks • Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC • Mr. Emmanuel Dlamini, Chair of the SBI • Mr. Paulo Jose Chiarelli, UNFCCC National Focal Point for Brazil and Ms. Emma Letellier, UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point for France